

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 CPR-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00

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O 062300Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7203

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0084

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, US, NR

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON AMB HARGROVE

REF: CANBERRA 0013

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE AGE JAN 7, 1976:

2. QTE IT'S HARGROVE--SAYS NAURU

3. "THE FIRST OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT
OF JAMES HARGROVE AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA CAME
UNEXPECTEDLY YESTERDAY--THROUGH THE NAURU GOVERNMENT.

4. "THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT STILL
INSIST NO NEW AMBASSADOR HAS YET BEEN PROPOSED.

5. "BUT A STATEMENT RELEASED YESTERDAY BY NAURU SAYS
IT RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ON
DECEMBER 15 REQUESTING APPROVAL OF MR. HARGROVE'S
APPOINTMENT.

6. "HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO BOTH
AUSTRALIA AND NAURU.

7. "AUSTRALIA IS REPORTED TO HAVE ALREADY APPROVED MR.
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HARGROVE'S APPOINTMENT.

8. NAURU'S MELBOURNE REPRESENTATIVE, MR. G.F. HARRIS, DENIED THE TINY PHOSPHATE-RICH ISLAND WAS HOLDING UP THE OFFICIAL U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE NEW ENVOY BY DELAYING ITS APPROVAL OF MR. HARGROVE. END QTE

9. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE AUSTRALIAN FOR JANUARY 7, 1976:

10. QTE DELAY ON U.S. ENVOY NOT OUR FAULT--NAURU

1. "THE TINY PHOSPHATE REPUBLIC OF NAURU YESTERDAY REJECTED CLAIMS THAT IT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR U.S. DELAYS IN CONFIRMING MR. JAMES HARGROVE AS AMBASSADOR TO NAURU AND AUSTRALIA.

11. "THE GOVERNMENT OF NAURU SENT A LETTER TO THE AUSTRALIAN REJECTING CLAIMS THAT PRESIDENT DE ROBURT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HOLD-UP.

12. "PRESIDENT FORD WAS REPORTED TO BE WAITING FOR PRESIDENT DE ROBURT TO APPROVE OFFICIALLY MR. HARGROVE BEFORE APPOINTING HIM.

13. "A SPOKSEMAN FOR THE NAURU REPUBLIC SAID A REQUEST FROM THE U.S. SEEKING AGREEMENT FOR MR. HARGROVE AS AMBASSADOR WAS DATED DECEMBER 15, BUT NOT RECEIVED UNTIL THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN.

14. "THE REQUEST WAS DEALT WITH BY THE NAURU GOVERNMENT ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO WHEN GOVERNMENT OFFICES RE-OPENED.

15. "IT IS QUITE UNFAIR, THEREFORE, AND INACCURATE TO BLAME THE NAURU GOVERNMENT FOR THE FACT THAT AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN WITHOUT AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR FOR FIVE MONTHS WHEN NAURU HAS KNOWN THE INTENTIONS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR ONLY TWO WEEKS', THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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16. " 'NAURU EMPHATICALLY REJECTS ANY SUGGESTION THAT IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DELAY IN MR. HARGROVE'S APPOINTMENT', HE SAID. END QTE. PERCIVAL

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